Volume II, Number 1 Sacramento, California January, 1982

RIVER CITY RAMBLER

PARKING LOT

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THE PARKING LOT.

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RIVER CITY RAMBLER
Magazine

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Sacramento, CA 95816

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RIVER CITY RAMBLER magazine is published monthly. Deadlines for all contributions is the first of each month. Letters to the Editor, unless otherwise stated, may be published. Names will be printed unless otherwise requested. Letters must be signed, dated, with return address. Contributions are subject to editing. ***RIVER CITY RAMBLER*** Magazine is not responsible for comments made in articles submitted by other individuals, organizations, and contributing editors.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

"In darkness no more,
our stories are like fine grains of sand,
turning into beautiful pearls."
– Oriental passage –

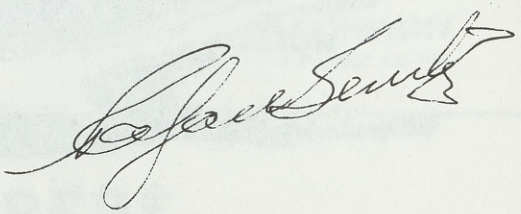
I recently read these words and was profoundly touched. What do they mean? How can these words be applied to our "stories?"

We are in the midst of a period of reflection. A new year is ahead of us. A time to reaffirm continuing projects, and to pursue new ones. A time to accomplish, reshape, rethink, or simply, fulfill our personal goals.

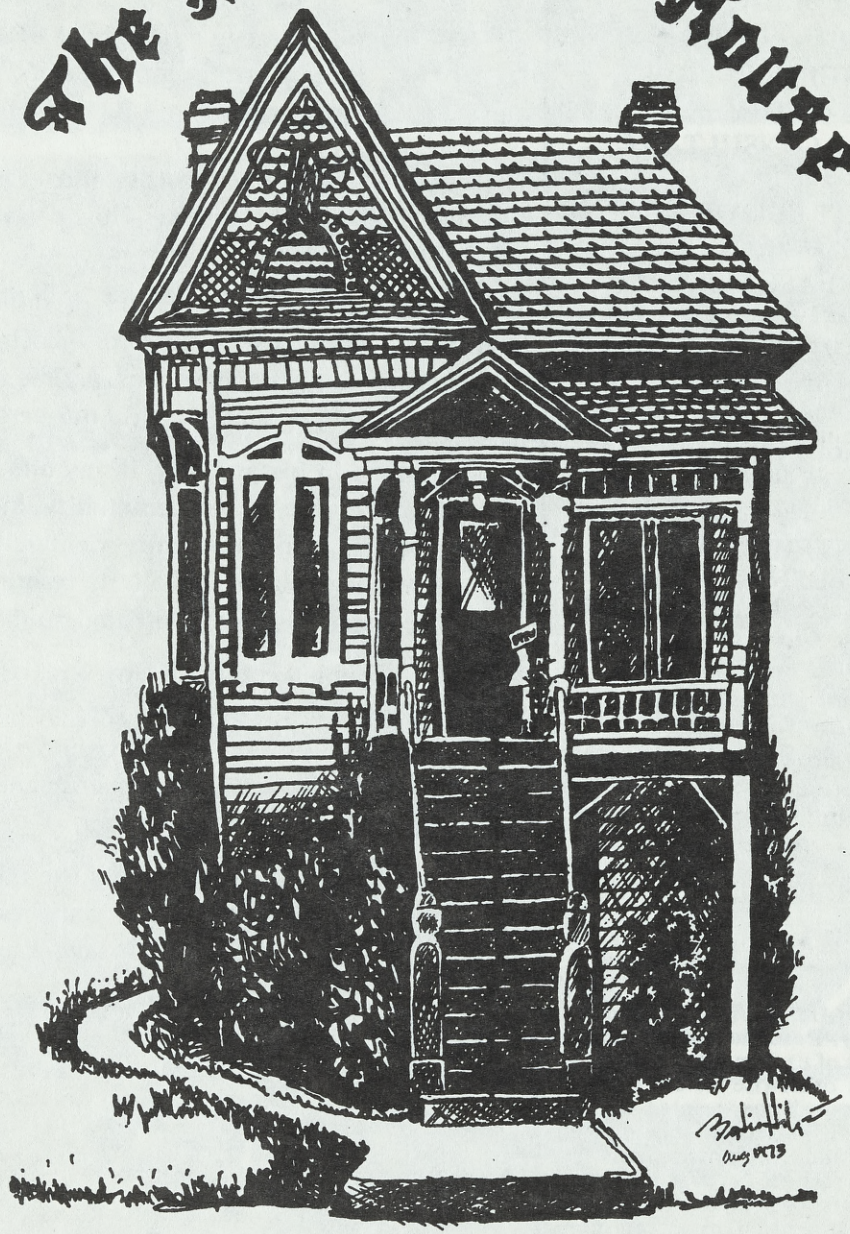
This is a time in history that, if any one project was of utmost importance to our community, individually and collectively, it is a Community Center. It is time that our community pulled on all its resources, including financial, to get this project off the ground.

In these troubled times, if we wish to survive as a community and accomplish the ever elusive unity amongst ourselves, it would behoove all of us in Sacramento to be active and instrumental in materializing this long contemplated dream.

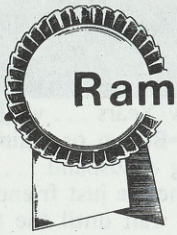
If we have the courage, whatever the odds may be, to accomplish this task, then, and only then, can we all proudly raise our heads and say: "In darkness no more."



The Mercantile House



1928 L St



Rambler Survey

Now that we've been in the community for a year, and in order to improve the magazine, we would like to find out what you like best or least.

On plain paper, please write the question number, and give information, such as Yes or No, More, Less, etc.

Mail to:

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Magazine
P.O. Box No. 160877
Sacramento, Ca. 95816

Please write Roman Numberal at top of page before answering our questionnaire.

Start here:

I

Male _____ Female _____ Age_____

Please answer Yes or No

Do you like:

A

1. Editorials
2. Butch and Nellie
3. Sports coverage
4. Hear Ye—Light Up Your Closet
5. Nuggets of Nostalgia
6. Puzzle – Word Game
7. Real Estate column
8. Community Comments
9. Sipping with Shawn
10. Calendar of Events
11. The Map
12. Bar Guide
13. Who is Who and What
14. Law and You

B

Do you like:

15. Our layout
16. The art work
17. Glossy cover

C

Do you use:

18. Our advertisers
19. The map
20. The list of community events (calendar)

D

Do you think we have

21. Enough / Not Enough Community Coverage

E

Would you want to see:

22. Nude photos
23. Food recipies
24. Subscription
25. More photographs
26. International news
27. National news
28. Movie revues
29. Classified ads

F

30. Are you registered to vote
31. Did you vote in the last elections:

    a. Local
    b. State
    c. National

G

32. In your household, how many people read the Rambler?

H

33. Other comments:

* * *

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Tid Bits

Well, hello to you from "Rambler Country"!! That handle, compliments of our illustrious Editor, Rafael. How were your Holidays? Seems all had a good time . . . just ask the few, approximately 50, give or take 100, lovely people who attended the festive Yule bash given at the Disney residence. Hostess with the Mostes' Barbara Disney, Theresa and the one and only "Shirley" from the Mustang Club in Modesto gave a fabulous party . . . well catered by the catering duo of the century, Ken Littler and Chuck Benz. The spread was fabulous, decorations festive, the pate terrific. If you don't believe me, just ask Mod & Carl Berry. Those two quickly snuffed off the other food and devoured the pate. Libation flowed like water while Little Mike (his glasses are so cute on him) twirled and smiled behind his Foster Grants. Nice to see you having fun, Mike.

Billy Tree proudly displaying his Brass No. 1 he just received. The "not seen too much" restauranteer of the infamous Incredible Edible, Paul Fitzgerald, was there looking gorgeous as ever with that twinkle in his eyes. Tina was beautiful as ever, "Ding-Dong – Avon Calling" Chuck Ziegler was in attendance and not at all boisterous and throwing women around as he was accused. There was only one person twirling around. However, that one was not noticed by many.

All was going quite well until a "Bullhorn" type announcement was made over the heads of the joyous crowd soliciting "Thank You's" to the Hostess Barbara and Theresa. Well, my dear . . . What about Shirley? I mean, really. To begin with, the people that were there would have in due time and at an appripriate moment given their "thanks" for a well done party. Diana was lovely, while Vern sported a beard which looks great. Doug Shafer busy laying ground work. Break a leg, kid. Our very own "man of the hour" and Proprietor of the Cluck Cluck Club of Sacramento was beaming with several very attractive cluckettes. You were fabulous, Terry. Terry! Did you know Houston has your brother bar? . . . Yeah! It's called the "Chicken Coop."

The next evening took us to yet another terrific party given by the infamous duo of "Stan and Steve" – Well . . . just everyone was there, too. Decorations a la Conceptual Entertainment and a Santa with more than tricks in his bag. It was the cutest Rudolph we had ever seen, stripping to sounds of the Village People. I just saw people I had never seen before. Filled up the black book for '82. Emperor V of all Sacramento was there twirling his contacts at the sights.

Moving now into New Years . . . whilst sitting at the Mercantile, Ernie Brown proclaims a new year's resolution. Getting a husband . . . And no, that's not Aunt Rose. They're just friends. Could you just see that? Well, wait until the February issue of the Rambler. I guarantee you an Aunt Rose you have never seen before, and I'm going to do it. Glad to hear you had a nice time at the cabin, Anna, and did you see Monte Moore in from L.A.?

Flash . . . Flash! (perhaps) . . . What's the Rumble about 21st and R Streets, Sacramento, in February?

Remember Bill Barry from the Broadway Ltd? Sure you do. Well, he and Ron have taken over the cute little bar called the "Sunset Point" in Clear Lake and are doing quite well. A group of us decided to go to the lake for New Year's for a change, and what a time. The music was tremendous, the wine and beer flowed like water, warmer than hell inside and freezing outside, which made it quite nice. The New Year was announced in the most unusual way. In lieu of the Guy Lombardo trip, just at the right moment on comes the 1812 Overture and Pow! with the famous cannons at midnight! After the party was forced to close down because of 2:00 a.m., we returned with many others to our lodging at the "Starlite Resort." They have a private spa for tennants (and guests) and many lovely rooms. All of which will be covered in an exclusive interview with the marvelous managers (pant, pant) Randy and Joel in our February issue.

Have you seen the rock Rachel is packing around? He calls it a Russian diamond. I call it the "Star of Russia" – Did you perhaps receive this as a gift from the 49er's or to leave them alone? Kissy, Kissy.

Many more topics, people, but due to the fact that there was so much partying going on this season, deadlines approahced and there I sat. Well, my Editor gets very pushy, so look for much more in February.

Watch out for all the nice people who miraculously appear lately. April is just around the corner. Happy Easter! I wanted to be the first to wish you that. March isn't it. Jim Marshall . . . You're fabulous, and Fred . . . I don't care what was said . . . just what have you done for the community? Doesn't Rosa know? Is it true that Walt Preston is circulating a petition to keep the private viewing booths. I'll sign.

Kissy, Kissy . . .

– rhulah

Walt Preston's Nuggets Of Nostalgia

Well, my dears, we made it. The Rambler is a year old. I shall never understand birthdays . . . some folks are actually happy to be years older. To celebrate the Rambler's first birthday, I have written a serious article on its history, to be found elsewhere in this issue. Yes, my dears, I can be serious.

Well, Christmas and 1981 is over, as you will of course have noticed. And although I received many gifts, two are of value to our entire community. My roommate, Bruce King, gave me a copy of "Gay American History," by Jonathan Katz; and his sister, Jean, gave me a copy of the "Gay Engagement Calendar." I shall express my thanks to them both by enriching this column with nuggets obtained from the pages of the two aforementioned volumes.

Gone are all those gorgeous construction workers; and in their stead is a splendid monument to the history of our Golden Land— the restored State Capitol. In 1860 work started on the original structure, and on February 4, 1974, the building was completed. However, in 1972 the building was declared to be unsafe during earthquakes. Now, my dears, in my humble opinion, the only *SAFE* place to be during an earthquake is somewhere else. So, moving with the speed of modern government, in 1976 (four years later) restoration of this beautiful building began; and six years after that, on January 4, 1982, the dazzling Capitol was opened to the public. Now before you bitch about the cost, it only cost each of us $3.00, or the cost of two drinks at your favorite drinking place. But Oh My! dears, the result is absolutely stunning — you really must go down and see the Capitol. It's worth every penny of the expense.

Sacramento is the fourth Capital of California. Monterey was first, established by the Empire of New Spain of the Ocean Waves (now isn't that a mouthful to say) on June 3, 1770. Fear of pirates caused the Capital to be moved to San Jose on December 15, 1849. General Vallejo took the Capital to a city he named for himself on May 1, 1851. When plagues broke out in 1853, the Capital was moved to a city named for General Vallejo's wife, Dona Benicia, on June 1, 1853. The old Capitol in Benicia can still be visited. Be sure to notice adorable guides.

Since it was difficult to get to Benicia — and still is — the legislature moved the Capital to Sacramento on January 1, 1854. Stockton would have the world believe that the only reason Stockton was not chosen for the State Capitol was because Sacramento City gave $1,000,000.00 for the honor of becoming the State Capital; and then gave the land for the Capitol complex plus use of the County Courthouse. They would even have us believe that we in Sacramento waited until the government of the County of San Joaquin was in recess before offering the deal to the legislature. Now, would Sacramentans do that?

Yes, my dears, Sacramento does have a sensational saga to sing.

* * *

EXPERTS ON GAY COUPLES WILL SPEAK AT CSUS

Dr. Andrew Mattison, a counselor, and Dr. David McWhirter, a psychiatrist, who have been researching Gay male couples since 1972, will speak at California State University, Sacramento, on Thursday, January 28. Their presentation entitled "The Dynamics of Gay Male Couples" will be sponsored by the Gay People's Union at CSUS and will be presented at 8 pm in the University Union on the CSUS campus. All interested persons are invited to attend, free of charge, whether or not they are affiliated with the university or the GPU.

(Continued on Page 14)

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BUTCH and NELLIE . . .

BUTCH

Butch was thrilled to do an interview with Miss Piggy. On the subject of good looks Miss Piggy suggests for the "thin" look: buy clothes two sizes too large; for the "rich" look: leave price tags on "accidentally," and add zeros where necessary; for the "glamorous" look: choose plain-looking dining companions. On getting lumps out of spaghetti, Miss Piggy says to try a light cream rinse followed by a quick once-over with a blow dryer. On bad luck with pets (those that run away, etc.) Piggy offers trying a more stationary pet like a clam or a potato, or if you prefer something in a furry line, mink coats make excellent pets. On love– Miss Piggy agrees that you should be near the person at all times except when buying things and charging them to him. Finally, on the question of a "cure" for a broken heart, Miss Piggy states that only time can heal a broken heart, just as time can heal his broken back and arms and legs.

Butch admitted to the Rambler staff that he had a love affair for Miss Piggy (with no strings attached, of course).

Flashback

WE'RE INTO DECO

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NELLIE

At the last staff meeting of the Rambler, Nellie was rapping about her high school days and of her encounters with some of the male jocks. Once she played center on a boys team. Her biggest concern was that the backfield was all Greek. She claims she used to wear peek-a-boo blouses until the boys would peek and then boo. She remembered the jitterbug (a popular dance) and the time her date would throw her over his head and between his legs and then they would both get out of the car. Nellie also recounted a live-in jock boy friend. He was more interested in pro football than her. In order to get his attention, Nellie would put a number on the back of her nightgown. She would even flip a coin to see who received. He even taped her ankles – *together*, that is. Finally, in desperation, she asked him to either "play me or trade me."

By the way, Nellie bought herself a glass disphragm for Christmas. She always wanted a womb with a view.

* * *

THE FAMILY TREE

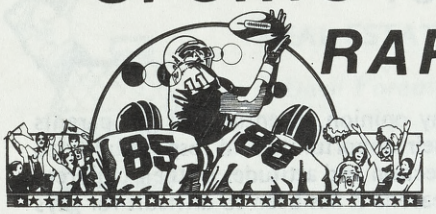
The new year is finding Our River City Family with an exciting commitment to develop a number of new activities in the areas of sporting events, social get-togethers, and cultural functions. Activity interest lists now include the names of over 600 members of our community. If you would like to find out more about Our River City Family activities, or if you are part of a group that would like to tap into the resources of these interest lists, please call Doug at 927-6524. Activity groups are now forming in the areas of gardening, softball, tennis, card playing, "Dungeons and Dragons," weekend auto trips, ballroom dancing, dinner parties, and events for couples. There is a winter skiing group now taking advantage of the snow season – for information about this group's activities, contact Jim at 457-7489.

There is also a women-only activity program forming. For more about this program or for any general activity information, please contact Doug at 927-6524. You are cordially invited to take part in the Family Fun!

The Young Adult Rap, sponsored by the Family and G.P.U. of Sacramento State University, has been functioning successfully now for several months with attendance on the increase.

(Continued on Page 33)

SPORTS RAP



Rich Wilkes

Well, sports fans, it has been a whole year and quite a bit has happened on the sport scene in Sacramento. In the early part of the year we had a very successful pool league.

The pool league was followed by the sporting event that has really become one of the events of the year in Sacramento. Although there is bowling just about year around now and there have been various leagues and even our first invitational tournament at different houses in Sacramento, **The League** here and in Northern California is the River City Bowlers. We saw the league expand from 24 teams the year before to 44 teams last year, with over 230 gay men and women bowling, making it the largest league in Sacramento and the largest gay bowling league in the United States.

Following the bowling was the softball season and we had very good representation in the Gay Softball League, the Community Softball League, and the Sacramento City Park and Recreation League. The highlights of the season being Norm, Anna and Jim of the Wreckers being selected for the GSL All Star team, and Paul and his team, the Stars of the CSL, winning the 2nd Annual Sacramento Invitational, going undefeated and then taking that team and winning Division C of the Park and Recreation, also undefeated. Special thanks to the Wreck Room for sponsoring both the Stars and Wreckers and to Broadway Ltd. for their sponsorship of the Stars in the City League.

There have been a lot of other various activities going on, from roller skating to pinball tournaments to arm wrestling to square dancing, and we try to keep you informed as best we can. 1981 was a very memorable year, and we will try to make 1982 just a little bit bigger and better.

BOWLING

The Sunday Swingers have just resumed bowling after a two week break and are hard about the task of determining a second half winner to meet the winners of the first half, Youallcome, for the league championship in the spring. Remember, the Swingers can be found at the Alhambra Bowl every Sunday from 6 to 9 pm.

The River City Bowlers started another season on the 3rd and once again 32 lanes were occupied with Gay bowlers. We will have all of the latest standings in the next edition and remember the River City Bowlers are at Land Park from noon to 3 p.m. on Sundays.

SOFTBALL

Yes, it's that time again, or at least when things dry out, and the Sacramento entry in the GSL will be holding try-outs on the 6th of February at 10 a.m. For the location of the field and other information, contact either Bob Weaver at 372-7863 or Don Souza at 446-2473. So if you want some fun out on the diamond, get yourself in shape and go on out and try out.

I'm sorry to have to report that roller skating has been cancelled. It was a lot of fun and thanks to Bob and his gang for a lot of good times.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the entire staff of the Rambler on its first birthday and say that it has been a lot of fun and I'm looking forward to 1982 with bigger and better things coming from and for the Rambler. So until next month, stay dry and keep thinking good thoughts about yourself.

* * *

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THE LAW AND YOU!

Philip J. Hoskins

In recent years America has discovered that many of those who have mothered and fathered children are in fact gay and lesbian parents. Some of these parents chose to conceal the fact of their sexual orientation from their spouse in an attempt to "be straight" while others have simply found partners who accepted that orientation and also chose to have children with them.

The result of this "coming out" has been a drastic change in judicial attitudes regarding child custody. For many years gay parents have tried to hide the fact of their gayness from the courts in fear that it would prevent them from gaining custody or even visitation with their children. This is no longer necessary in most states and especially California. Our courts have on several occasions stated that the fact of homosexuality cannot, in itself, be a reason to deny custody to a gay person.

The rule to be applied in these cases, as in all others, is what is the best interests of the child. A court may no longer automatically prefer the mother over the father and it may no longer automatically prefer a straight parent over a gay one. Rather, the appellate courts have instructed the trial court to consider the living situation the child would be exposed to in each household.

Factors that will affect the outcome, whether they are present in a straight or gay household, include the stability of a relationship, the frequency with which a child would be exposed to different dates or sexual partners, the character of the home environment, the economic ability of a parent to provide for the child, and a number of similar issues. What this means is that a monogomous, stable gay parent would be preferred over a promiscuous, unstable straight parent.

It is true that the application of these standards is subject to varying interpretation by different judges and prejudice and discrimination still may affect individual cases. It is important, however, that gay parents not assume that they cannot receive fair and equal treatment by the courts. Those of you who have been divorced and who have had problems with either custody or visitation with your children should consult an attorney to determine whether improvements can now be made. In all cases, you should make the effort to maintain regular and meaningful contact with your child despite the attempts of the former spouse to interfere. The very fact of your effort and any interference will work in your favor if the matter is brought before a court.

It is, in my opinion, essential that gay parents not forfeit their opportunity and responsibility to affect the direction and attitudes of their children. One of the reasons it has been so difficult for gays to "come out" has been our reluctance to assume the normal roles in life because we are afraid of unpleasant consequences. Your child needs to know you as you are and hiding behind sexual preference may create the feeling of abandonment on the part of the child. As a gay person, it is likely you have learned more about love and affection than most straights and it is important that your child receive the benefit of as much as you can share.

If you experience problems with custody or visitation, think through very carefully whether those problems are of your own creation and then take action. If possible, contact your former spouse and work through the problems by direct communication. If that does not work, contact an understanding attorney who can help find a workable solution, through court action, if necessary.

Most of all, every person who is a parent needs to know that there are few or no legal barriers to a normal parent-child relationship. All across the state gay parents are sharing with their children the joys and burdens of being a father or mother. There is no reason for you to deny yourself and your child the fullness of this basic relationship.

Philip J. Hoskins
Attorney At Law
1813 "K" Street
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 444-9939

REAL ESTATE 82

Dave Foreman

It's been a full year since the Rambler's inception. This anniversary comes at a time of many changes. We have just changed to a new 1982 and with this change the Rambler has changed also! I have enjoyed writing these real estate articles this year and look forward to our 1982 publications. Happy Anniversary and Happy New Year to all the Rambler readers and staff. You've come a long way, baby!

Have you wondered about the advantages of Condo ownership? My last article looked at a few condo developments. Let's look at some of the advantages in living in them.

The single, best advantage I feel is, there is virtually no maintenance responsibilities. The exterior upkeep such as painting, yard maintenance, roofing, etc., are all taken care of by the Homeowners Association.

Most developments offer the owners such luxuries as pools, spas, clubhouse, and gym facilities. These are high priced items usually found only in high priced properties.

If you consider this type of ownership pay close attention to interior amenities being offered. Many projects offer such items as refrigerators, washers, dryers, and sometimes drapes in the price of each unit. If you are just starting out these added extras could save you a lot of money.

Pay close attention to location, both in the complex and the part of the city you locate. This will definitely be a concern when you re-sell.

The affordable single family detached home is in short supply, therefore when interest rates come down the values of affordable condos may increase due to supply and demand.

Personally, I feel the condo advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. For first time buyers they are a good deal. If you are just starting out they are excellent stepping stones towards detached home ownership.

Should you have any specific questions on topics that you would like to see addressed, send your request to:

REAL ESTATE '82
Care of River City Rambler
Post Office Box No. 161241
Sacramento, California 95816

Anniversary Congratulations

From Kevin and the Gang at

Mountain Mike's PIZZA

5651 Freeport Blvd. Sacramento

There's No Doubt!

Terry & Tom

Duke & Duchess

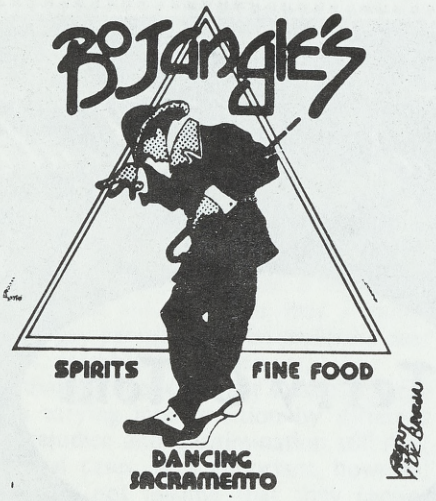
MR. and JUNIOR MR. MACHO CONTESTS

The original California Statewide MR. MACHO Contest was created by Emperor V John of Modesto. His intention was to design a fundraiser to benefit a needed cause while giving individuals an opportunity to represent their local community with dignity and pride. This particular function provides an entertaining event which instills a great sense of masculine pride with the local Gay community.

On Saturday, September 5th, our local MR. MACHO, Rod Glathar, along with our Junior MR. MACHO, John Bryan, represented Sacramento at the statewide competition held in San Francisco. Although Rod didn't bring home the Statewide title, he still managed to place Second Runner Up. Congratulations, Rod!

This year the proceeds from the statewide contest were donated to the Special Olympics for the Mentally Retarded. On the local scene, the Aquarian Effort Health Clinic was chosen as the recipient for proceeds from the local events. The following financial statement will show what was collected.

THURSDAY NIGHT SPECIALS



SACRAMENTO GAY BAR EMPLOYEES

NO COVER – ONE FREE DRINK

50c a drink thereafter

(GAY BAR OWNERS WELCOMED TOO)

MR. and JUNIOR MR. MACHO CONTESTS 1981 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

Mr. Macho Door Money (Broadway Ltd.)	$265.00
Prize Money - donated by Broadway Ltd.	35.00
Donation for Printing – L. Macy	9.60
Junior Mr. Macho Door Money (BoJangles)	394.00
*(Prize money specified by BoJangles)	
	$703.60

EXPENSES

Mr. Macho Prize Money	
Rod Glathar – First Place	$ 25.00
Tom Price – Second Place	10.00
Special Olympics–Donation GNIE Ck No 270	25.00
Statewide Entrance Fee for Mr. Macho	
Rod Glathar – Mr. Macho GNIE C k No 271	50.00
Transportation and Hotel Expenses for Statewide Contest in San Francisco	
Printing Posters and Applications (Donated)	9.60
Junior Mr. Macho Prize Money	
John Bryan – First Place	100.00
(Name withheld) – Second Place	25.00
	–$244.60

Other Prizes and Door Prizes:
(Donated by BoJangles and Larry Macy)
Two bottles Rum, Eight bottles Champagne, Six Bandanas, Dinner for Two at BoJangles, and Two "Mr. Macho '79" T-Shirts.

NET PROFIT: $459.00
To Aquarian Effort, Inc.

A check from the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire, Inc. was presented to Duane of the Aquarian Effort Health Clinic during GNIE's December 20th Christmas Party at the Parking Lot. We are pleased to announce that the Aquarian Effort, Inc. will be able to use this donation to match federal funding – therefore, the actual profit from this fundraising effort realizes out at **$918.00!**

We wish to thank everyone who attended these events for your continual support to the local Gay Community.

Happy New Year!

Emperor VIII
Larry Macy

* * *

ALCOHOLISM WORKSHOP

On January 20, 21 and 22, there will be a workshop on "Working with Gay Men and Women Alcohol/Substance Abusers: Recovery Strategies" sponsored by the Community Forum on Chemical Dependency and California State University, Sacramento. The dinner speaker and one of the panelists will be Dr. Josette Mondanaro. For information contact Lynell (972-1431) or Arnie (967-8277). Scholarships available.

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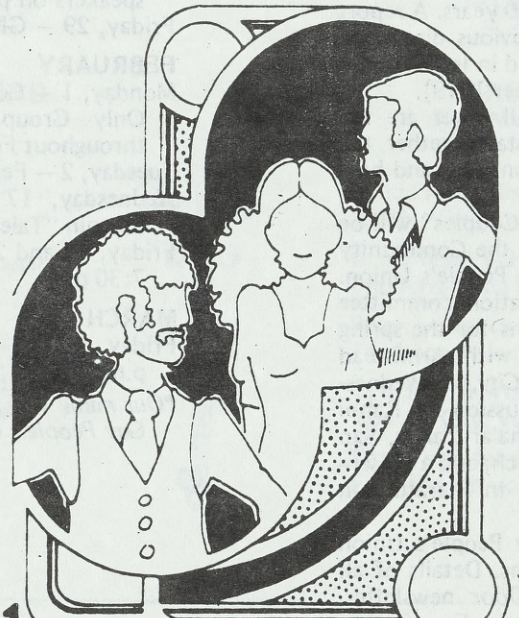

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Mon./Thur./Fri. 9 am—8 pm

(Continued from Page 7)

McWhirter and Mattison are a Gay couple in private practice in San Diego, where they work in the Clinical Institute for Human Relationships, which they founded. McWhirter is also a member of the Governor's Commission on Alternative Lifestyles. Their research involved interviews with 156 gay male couples, beginning in 1974. The men in their study, mostly white, upper middle class couples from the San Diego area, included couples who had been together for over 20 years. A report on McWhirter and Mattison's previous discussion of their research at CSUS appeared in Issue No. 14 of Mom . . . Guess What! (December 1979).

Some of the topics they will cover are the factors in coupling, why couples stay together, the cycles of change in couple relationships, and how couples deal with problems.

"The Dynamics of Gay Male Couples" will be the first presentation of 1982 by the Community Education Committee of the Gay People's Union. According to Community Education committee head Jason Lindo, other programs for the spring semester will be "An Evening with Armistead Maupin," author of *Tales of the City*, on Wednesday, February 17; a lecture/discussion by Rabbi Alan Bennett of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, San Francisco's gay synagogue, in March; and a presentation on lesbians and gay men in literature in April.

Events sponsored by the Gay People's Union are open to all interested persons. Details of all GPU events are in the *Open Door* newsletter, distributed to all GPU members. For further information about the GPU or activities, call Paul, GPU Social Director, or Sharon, GPU President, at 446-1171.

CSUS GAY PEOPLE'S UNION CALENDAR

JANUARY

Thursday, 28 – "More on Gay Couples" GPU speakers on psychology of coupling. 8:00 p.m.
Friday, 29 – GPU Open Door Potluck. 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Monday, 1 – Coming Out Troup (GPU). Women's Only Group. Every Monday and Tuesday throughout February and March.
Tuesday, 2 – Feminist Rap Group.
Wednesday, 17 – GPU Speaker – Armistead Maupin "Tales of the City" – 446-1171.
Friday, 12 and 26 – *LGPU Open Door Potluck, 7:30 p.m.

MARCH

Friday, 12, 26 – LBPU Open Door Potluck, 7:30 p.m.

**Our name will soon be changing to "Lesbian and Gay People's Union."*

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POETRY

SADDLE THE WIND

By: Digette

Have you ever reflected
on a falling leaf
As it softly floats
to the end of its life's cycle?

Oh, ride the wind
Ever so lightly,
Aged delicate creation.
Rise up and lower in the
tide of the wind.

Oh, give me wisdom
to saddle my wind
With the quiet dignity
of a leaf's end.

TEARS OF JOY

By: Necole Grant

Wilted like a flower I sleep,
Waiting for tomorrow's peak.

In my heart I cherish a secret
I no longer can keep.

When we touch
The honesty is too deep.

You are fair, you are fun,
You are Gay, you are treat.

Thank you for coming into my life.
Even though you are not mine to keep.

WIND IN YOUR HAIR

by: Ron Strouse

Greetings. This obviously is a new column, by a new and unbloodied fledgling journalist, so please forgive any minor breaks, o.k.?

The purpose of this column will be to keep abreast, or ahead of events concerning the motorcycle enthusiast. I will attempt to keep it filled with information and reports concerning both the Sacramento and Northern California motorcycle clubs.

Since it is now the dead of Winter, so to speak, and we've successfully worked through both the I.C.F. "Casualty Capers" in San Francisco, and the Valley Knights "Christmas Knights '81" in Sacramento, the prevailing rain has kept most organized club activities to a minimum. However, what follows is a comprehensive listing of major events and happenings for the next couple of months.

FEBRUARY

14 - VALLEY KNIGHTS Open Meeting, Wreck Room at 2:00 p.m. Installation of 1982 Officers.

MARCH

27-28 - VALLEY KNIGHTS M.C. (tentative) Overnight run to Clear Lake.

If you are aware of any information that may be of interest for this column, please submit it to me, in care of the Editor, River City Rambler. I'll do my level best to include it in subsequent columns.

SPAS
SOLAR
GAZEBOS
LANDSCAPING

LANAI
DECKING
HOT TUBS
REMODELING

ROBERT LEDUC
Action SPA Systems
& Construction Co.

For an engineered installation with a custom LOOK.
Free Design Service

5950 Ortega Street 739-8653

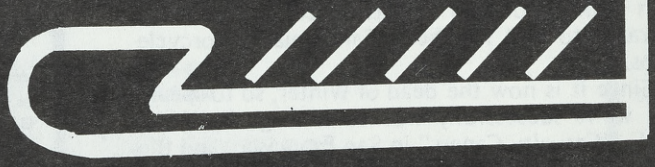
PARKING LOT

Monday Night Football

Square Dancing Tuesday

Wednesday Night with "Angel Fox"

Live Disco Friday & Saturday Nights



2804 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento, Ca. 482-7772

BAR GUIDE

BOJANGLES
Under 21 allowed — Disco - Game Room - Food - Patio. Beer and Wine & Soft Drinks. — I.D. required.

BROADWAY LTD.
Corner of 20th & Broadway on Broadway. Dancing - Restaurant - Pool Table - Juke Box - Full Liquor. I.D. required.

CLUB 21
On 21st street between L and K Streets. Pool Table - Piano Bar - Food (certain hours) - After Hours Food - Full Liquor - Good Taped Music. Open 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday - I.D. required.

HUT
Disco - Open Friday and Saturday only. Full Liquor. I.D. required.

MERCANTILE
Corner of 20th and L Streets - Conversational Bar - Fireplace - Food during Bar Hours - Juke Box — Full Liquor.

PARKING LOT
Country Club setting - Swimming Pool (Olympic Size) - Volley Ball - Tennis - 3 Separate Bars - Disco/Piano Bar - Lounge — Occasional Food - Full Liquor.

WRECK ROOM
On 20th between J and I Streets. Levi/Leather-/Western - Pool Table - Game Room - Taped Music - Beer and Wine - Movies on Sundays.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

RECORDS AND CASSETTES
GUARANTEED
Esoteric Books — Cards
We Buy and Sell
2425 Jay Street
Sacramento, CA 95816 441-4034

ONE YEAR!

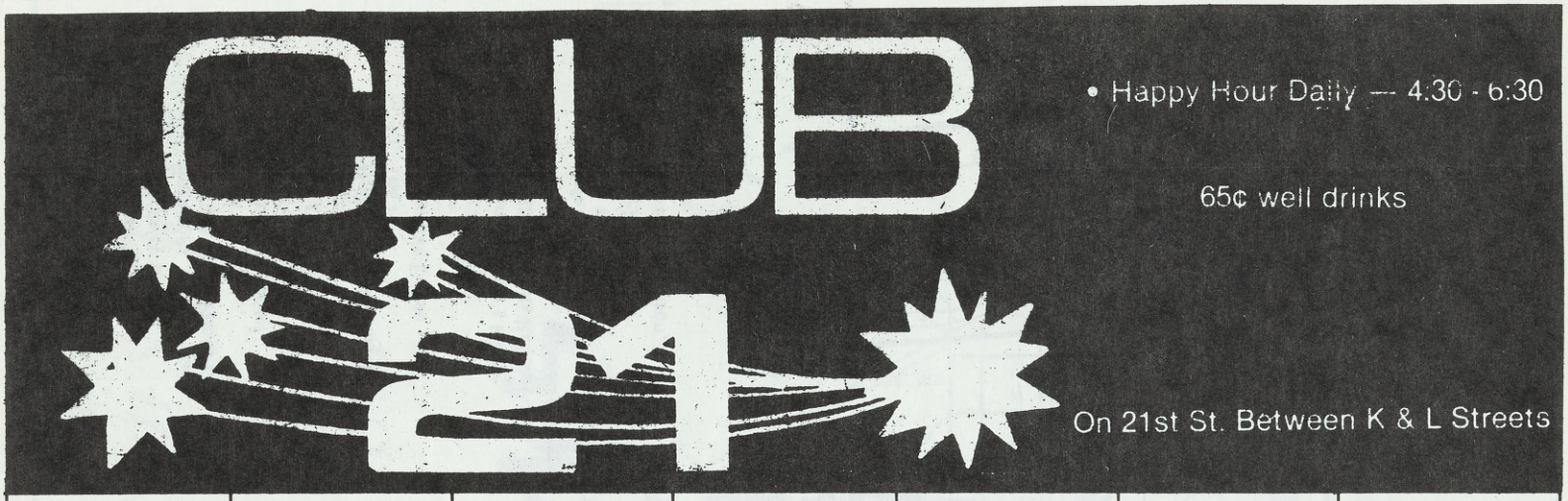
Mercantile

Fabulous!

WHO IS WHO & WHAT

Associations, Capitol City Contacts, Organizations and River City Resources:

Alcoholics Anonymous	443-8138
American Civil Liberties Union	956-3339
Aquarian Effort 13th and O Streets	446-6467
CSUS Gay People's Union	454-6595
CSUS Women's Center	454-6817
Dignity	448-3777
Fruitridge Democratic Club	454-2176
George Sand Community Benefit Fund	381-3115
Great Northwest Imperial Empire, Inc.	448-2255
Human Rights Commission	444-6903
Lady Garnet Presents	371-2474
Legal Aid Society	451-2804
Man Two Man	457-1425
Metropolitan Community Church	454-4762
Mom . . . Guess What!	456-5858
Our River City Family	927-6524
River City Rambler	444-9937
Rape Crisis Center	447-4657
River City Business Assn.	456-5858
River City Community Center	448-2255
SacPAC (Political Action Caucus)	457-7489
Sacramento Gay Speakers Bureau	452-0721
Sacramento Lesbians & Gay Mental Health Professionals	447-2282
Sacramento Peace Center	446-0787
S.C.C. Gay Peoples Union	447-5491
S.D.A. Kinship	447-1093
UCD Lesbian and Gay Peoples Union	1—753-2090
Young Adult Rap	927-6524
Valley Knights Motorcycle Club	920-3429

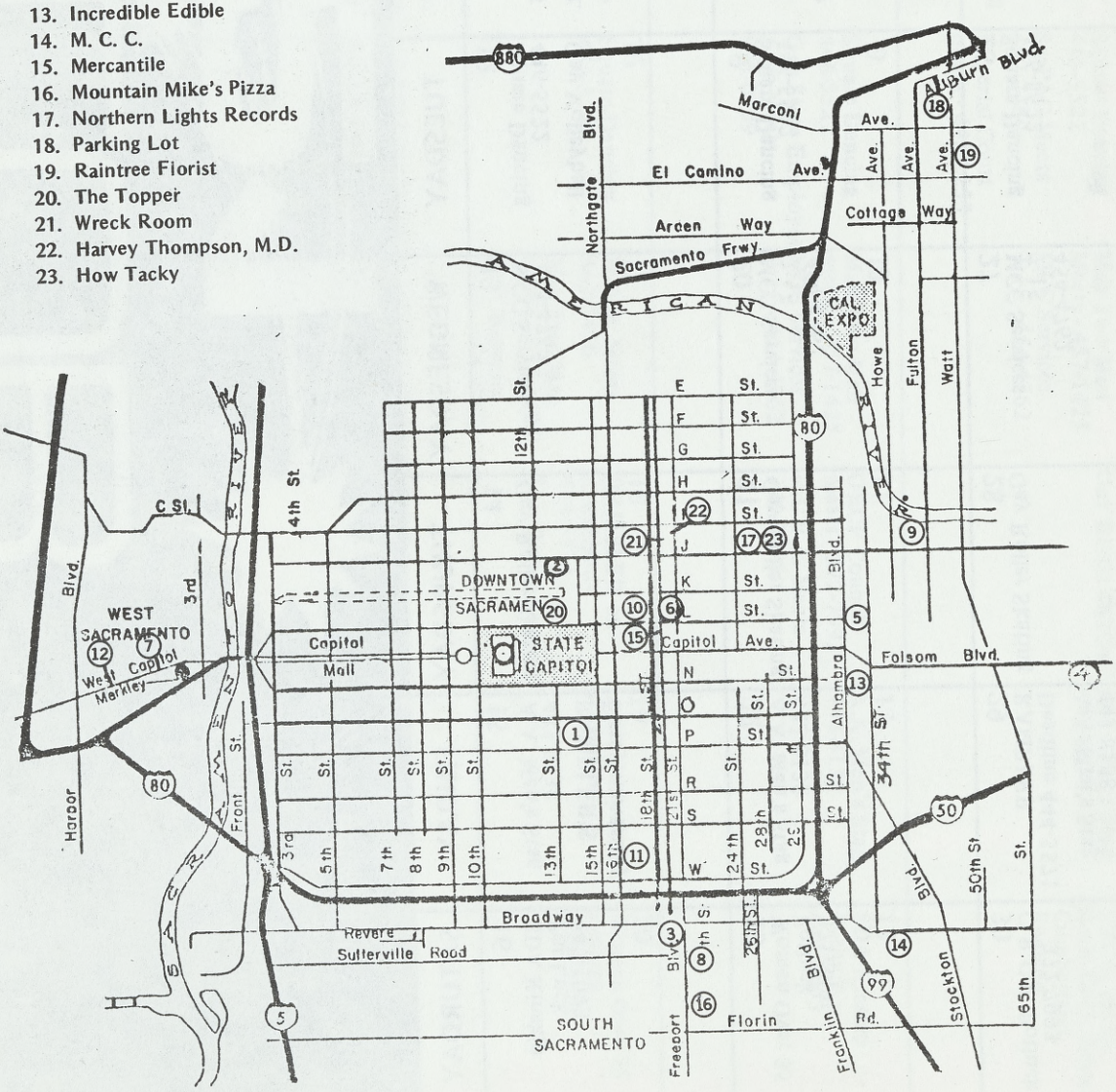


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 Dignity Meets 448-3779 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762	11 Man Two Man meets - 457-1425 RCBA Gen. Meet. 371-2876	12 Square Dancing 446-5522 Gay Volleyball	13 MCC Services 454-4762	14 Gay Roller Skating	15 A.A. Men's Stag 443-8138 **RAMBLER'S** **First Anniversary**	16 SDA Kinship Pot Luck 447-1093
17 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762	18 Man Two Man Meets - 457-1425 Young Adult Rap 457-9159	19 Square Dancing 446-5522	20 MCC Services 7:15 454-4762	21 Gay Roller Skating	22 A.A. Men's Stag 443-8138	23 Women Over 35 Potluck 371-3496
24 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762	25 Man Two Man Meets - 457-1425 Young Adult Rap 457-9159	26 Square Dancing 446-5522	27 MCC Services 7:15 454-4762	28 Gay Roller Skating	29 RAMBLER Deadline 444-5571 A.A. Men's Stag 443-8138	30 O.R.C.F. Potluck 372-7993
31	1 FEBRUARY	2	3	4	5	6

31 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762 Gay Mental Health Professionals meet 966-5116	1 FEBRUARY Young Adult Rap 457-9159 MGW on Newsstands – 456-5858	2 Square Dancing 446-5522 SacPAC Meets 457-7489 Imperial Court meets - 448-2255	3 Man Two Man Meets - 457-1425 MCC Services 7:15 - 454-4762	4 Gay Roller Skating	5 A.A. Men's Stag 443-8138	6 F.W.H. Myers Born 1843, Keswick Cumberland, England
7 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762	8 Young Adult Rap 457-9159	9 Square Dancing 446-5522 Gay State Employee Assn Meets 925-0799	10 Man Two Man meets - 457-1425 MCC Services 7:15 - 454-4762	11 ORCF Council meets - 372-7993 R.C.B.A. Meets 371-2876	12 A.A. Men's Stag 443-8138	13 SDA Kinship Potluck 447-1093
14 St. Valentine's Day Dignity Meets 448-3779 MCC Services 11:00 - 454-4762	15 Young Adult Rap 457-9159 MGW Deadline 456-5858	16 Square Dancing 446-5522	17 N.O.W. Meets 443-3470 Man Two Man meets - 457-1425 MCC Services 7:15 - 454-4762	18 **RAMBLER** on newsstands 444-5571 Gay Roller Skating	19 A.A. Men's Stag 443-8138	20 Women Over 35 Potluck 371-3496
21 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762	22 Young Adult Rap 457-9159	23 Square Dancing 446-5522	24 Man Two Man meets - 457-1425 MCC Services 7:15 - 454-4762	25 Gay Roller Skating	26 A.A. Men's Stag 443-8138	27 O.R.C.F. Potluck 372-7993
28 MCC Services 11:00 - 454-4762 Gay Mental Health Professionals meet 447-2282						

RIVER CITY RAMBLER MAGAZINE
P. O. Box 160877
Sacramento, Calif. 95816

1. Aquarian Effort
2. Big John's
3. Broadway L.T.D.
4. BoJangles
5. Black & White Photo Lab
6. Club 21
7. Continental Motel
8. Duffy's Cleaners
9. Egg Crate
10. Flashback
11. Holiday Hair Fashions
12. The Hut
13. Incredible Edible
14. M. C. C.
15. Mercantile
16. Mountain Mike's Pizza
17. Northern Lights Records
18. Parking Lot
19. Raintree Florist
20. The Topper
21. Wreck Room
22. Harvey Thompson, M.D.
23. How Tacky



5th Year Anniversary Party

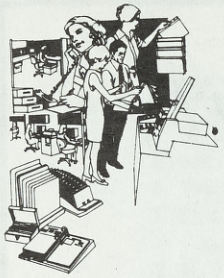
January 18th

Free Buffet!

Special Entertainment

OPEN

Tuesday—Sunday, 6:00 p.m.—2:00 a.m.



RAMBLER STAFF

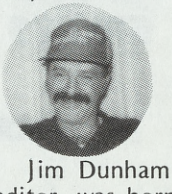
On a cold and dreary day in December of 1980 an idea was born to Rafael, Modette, Ray and Lance while sitting at table four (under the window) at the Mercantile. The idea being, to form a magazine serving Sacramento. By early January 1981, they had recruited nineteen more people to help present their newly developing commodity. And so with the hard work and effort of these people it was made possible for the first issue of the River City Rambler to make its debut in mid-January. With thanks also to advertisers willing to put up money despite the fact that the Rambler had no previous credit ability or reputation.

We would like you now to meet some of our staff, the following is truly of their own accord!

Our editor, Rafael Benitez, was born in October of 1948 in Havana, Cuba, and moved to the United States in December of 1961. He lived in Miami, Florida, Wichita, Kansas, and finished studies in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Rafael moved to Sacramento, courtesy of the U.S.A.F. in October of 1976. He is a co-founder and former chairperson of the George Sand Community Benefit Fund, Inc. and co-founder of the River City Rambler Magazine.

Modette, our founder, was born November 3, 1937 in Germany. She immigrated to the United States in March of 1955 to Salt Lake City, Utah, moved to Southern California in 1966 and came to Sacramento in February of 1979. Modette is a waitress at the Incredible Edible in the evening. She loves the Sacramento gay community and wants to help bring all people together in peace and love. Rebellious in nature, she questions accepted ways of life until she finds a logical reason for it. "I love to laugh and hear others do the same, believing that laughter is indeed the best medicine." As one of the founders of the Rambler, Mod wants to help our community better communicate with each other and to welcome newcomers to our fair city as well as our gay life. She is a member of the bowling league since it first began in January of 1980. As Ms. Gay Cowgirl of Sacramento, she helped along with Mr. and Miss to get square dancing started and continuously support it. "Sacramento, I love you!"

Our sports editor, Rich Wilkes, was born in Nashville, Tennessess on January 30, 1948. "The first 16 years of my life was spent in Nashville. My family moved to Los Angeles in 1964 and I finished my last 2 years of high school in L.A. Went to L.A.C.C. for 1½ years then entered the Air Force for 4 years. Spent most of my tour in Turkey, Germany and Italy. Upon leaving the Air Force bummed around in L.A. and then got a government job in Sacramento, and with the exception of one year spent in exile in San Jose, have lived in Sacramento since 1972 and have enjoyed every minute of it. As far as hobbies I like to dance, all kinds, and I'm a genuine sports freak with basketball, football and baseball being my favorites in that order. I also like to travel when I can afford it. As for my personal likes in people, I like people who are real and sincere. I'm not one for playing games. I try to get along with everyone and all that I ask is that people treat me the way they would like to be treated."



Jim Dunham – Butch & Nellie and co-sports editor, was born in this century and reared south of Bakersfield. "I educated myself in all things I shouldn't have known about. Nothing was expected of me and I came through. Nicknamed 'Weatherstrip' but it didn't keep me out of the draft. Wanted to be an old newspaperman, so I read nothing but old newspapers. Sat around Saturday nights thinking about taking a bath. I was poor . . . but clean minded. Had broad vision and could spot a broad a mile away. Found out that a friend in need is a friend to feed. Currently vaccinated against work."

Charlie Preston - columnist (Nuggets of Nostalgia) and bookkeeper. "I was born Charles Walter George Albertson Preson-Deacon II in London during the reign of His Britanic Majesty George VI. The Germans insisted on dropping bombs on my home town, so my family moved to Edmonton, Alberta. It was in Alberta, at the tender age of 9, that I learned about sex from my live-in tutor. (I will always remember my first trip to the Stampede in Calgary) After the war, we moved to California; and I grew up in the Golden Land. I went to the University in Reno, Nevada, and took a B.A. in history in the College of Education. I joined a fraternity and my first true love affair was with my fraternity older brother. I soon found that a new teacher in Nevada is always sent to the "Cow Counties," so I returned to Sacramento. I got into hospital work, and did most of my playing in The City. In 1980 I got interested in SacPAC; and soon was introduced to the staff of the Rambler. In mid-1981 I was asked to write a column "dishing" history. Nuggets of Nostalgia is the result. I live quietly in my Southgate Meadows home called Dragonlaire House, with Alexandre my dog, and my roommate Bruce King - locally famous theatre critic."

Carl Berry, originally from Los Angeles. was seven years with the comedy revue "Top Hats" there, and worked with Michale Greer and Jim Bailey in "Redwood Room" in that city. He was involved in the first awards "Lou Lou Awards" in Los Angeles and the Blue Angel West. Moved to San Francisco to be in a show, and got involved as a founder of All Male Theater in San Francisco and S.I.R., as director, producer, set designer, costume designer, stage hand, make-up, cast member, crew member, and doing publcity.

Founder of the San Francisco Academy of Performing Arts "Golden Awards" spin-off from Tony's except for Gay Theater. Attendance growth: 200 to 2100.

Shows: Once Upon a Mattress (make-up, assistant director); Mame (set design, understudy for Vera); Wonderful Town (assistant director); Little Mary Sunshine (cast); "Annual" Sirlebrity Capades (first gay community center in San Francisco - cast/costumes); Blythe Spirit (director); Plaza Suite (director); Chuck Largent Review (producer); Light Up the Sky (crew); Boy Friend (set design); Anything Goes (make up); Dames at Sea (cast/crew); Sacramento Camp Awards (director).

Director of the San Francisco annual Closet Ball (upcoming April 1982).

Ex San Francisco Bar Owner - Latex Lilly's Saloon, first bar to legally use the name Saloon since Prohibition.

Art Director for River City Rambler.

Shawn Scanlon, our advertising manager. A scrappy Leo . . . a tireless volunteer worker in Homes for Wayward Girls . . . winner in the 1977 Miss Dairy Queen Pageant . . . Founder of the Eternal Virgins Association of America . . . these are all phrases which could be used to describe Shaun, the Advertising Manager of the Rambler, except that none of them are true.

It would be correct to say, "Direct from Nantucket, Mass. (really four years ago), now appearing as a cocktail waitress at the Mercantile, a member of fine New England stock, welcome Shaun! Shaun became part of the family on November 11, 1955 and was born "on the Mainline" as he puts it.

Most of Shaun's friends who know his favorite color is lavender, also know him as Muffie (a popular Preppie Co-ed with a winning smile) and also know that he attempted the University of Hartford, majoring in photography and minoring in (water) sports.

Muffie says his favorite hobbies are: Smiling at people, cruising bus depots, and taking cold showers (in that order). Muffie admits a fondness for little alligators, penny loafers, 501's, LaCrosse matches, yellow hankies and anything with YALE on it.

Most evenings when he's not at home watching Doris Day re-runs, Muffie can be found at the Merc, showing friends around the back rooms and helping himself to a drink or two or three or . . .

Kevin Cohee. – Another member of our advertising staff was born in Milford, Delaware and raised in a very typical middle class family in a small town on the eastern shore of Maryland. "My acknowledgement to myself of my gay lifestyle was in October of 1977. In the fall of 1978 I moved to Washington, D.C. and worked as an assistant to an interior designer and also part-time work in restaurants. In January 1980 I moved to San Jose, seeking a career in food service. Then in August 1981 I was tranferred here to Sacramento

(Continued on Page 22)

and opened our first 'Mountain Mike's Pizza' and have become active in the Rambler and the Capitol City Squares."

Philip Hoskins – columnist (The Law and You), was born an undetermined number of years ago in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and moved to Los Angeles at a tender age. He earned a BA and law degree at UCLA and then departed to join the Kennedys in Washington, D.C. to start the New Frontier. After teaching a year at Golden Gate Law School in San Francisco as the first long hair revolutionary in law, he moved on to the flower children of Berkeley. Next came the anti-war movement and then a few years getting one of the cult religions started while fathering a son and two daughters. Most recently he worked as the openly gay regional director of the 56 California offices of Jacoby & Meyers. "True love brought me to Tom Corbin's side in Sacramento and I am now in practice here."

RAMBLER STAFF

Hal Laird is our newest columnist. He is a big town boy with small town ideas. He says he loves doing hair. He lived in San Francisco and then at 21 moved to San Jose where he opened a small beauty shop. He sold that, moved to Orangevale to buy a home, which he sold and moved to Sacramento three months ago, and is active in Sacramento gay life. He is a member of Capitol City Squares and a newcomer to the River City Rambler. In the winter he goes skiing every weekend. He's done stage shows and also was a singer years ago, but he'd much rather be known as a "nice guy," someone who values the people he considers friends. Hal is concerned with trust, having it, sharing it, believing in it, and most of all making sure its present in his relationships. He sometimes hops on his motorcycle and takes off to the mountains to relax and put things together.

75c Drinks

BOJANGLE'S

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
MEN'S NIGHT
No Cover for Men
Bartender — Joseph

TUESDAY NIGHT
LADIES' NIGHT
No Cover for Ladies
Bartender — Julie

SPIRITS FINE FOOD

DANCING
SACRAMENTO

Hear Ye!

by Modette

Being one of the founders of the Rambler, and this month being our First Anniversary, I would like to publicly and in print thank our advertisers for their support. Without them the Rambler would not have been born, not celebrated this Anniversary.

Many people have complained that our bars take our money and never do anything for our community in return. Since the birth of the Rambler, all of that changed. It is a fact that our bars really don't need to advertise to drum up more business, instead they are advertising to help us help you to further communication in Sacramento.

The small businesses are getting an opportunity to let you know who they are, where they are located, and that they welcome gay people as customers.

I thank all of our advertisers for sustaining us in the past year and I am optimistic that they will continue to do so in the coming years.

It seems only yesterday that plans were drawn for the first issue of the Rambler. It has not always been an easy road but between the Rambler staff and our advertisers there definitely was dedication and the belief that a community magazine was needed and welcomed in our city.

As a columnist in our magazine, I have tried to "light up your closet" – giving you a different way to look at our lifestyle. So often we allow ourselves to become products of our surroundings (which I call social pressures) or peer pressure that we lose sight of our individuality. We may all have some things in common, but that does not mean we have to be the same. Many times when a group of people unite as a community they tend to insist on sameness. That is a very superficial way of interaction. I wanted at least some of you to understand that it need not be this way if you did not want. Please understand that if you are happy with your way of thinking I might have helped you understand someone else.

I have always welcomed comments but I must assume no one is unhappy or particularly happy with my column, because the Rambler mail box has been empty of letters. Is there so much apathy among us that we don't take time to help someone or some thing get better, or simply eliminate it? In the October issue I asked all of you to take a few minutes to write down what you would expect from a community center. There was absolutely no response. I wonder why? Doesn't anyone care?

I hope we have proven by being around for a year that we mean business. The staff of the Rambler cares a great deal. All work is done voluntarily and most willingly. Let's hear from you and help us light up our closet.

Lovingly,

– Modette

Seven Seas Galley

CATERING SERVICES
Unique International Foods

DIANNA evenings 481-3545

THE RAMBLER'S FIRST YEAR

by: Walt Preston

"It was the most thrilling moment of my entire life," remarked Modette, as she remembered the appearance of the Rambler's first edition. It was also a thrilling moment for the Rambler staff which gathered together in the Merc to celebrate their very first anniversary. "Do you know that the Rambler first came out right here in the Merc just one year ago?" Mod continued as she recalled, for this interviewer, the history of Sacramento's Gay Magazine.

Shawn Scanlin, the Merc's handsome cocktail waiter, continued the story. "On December 28, 1980, right over there at Table 6, Mod, Ray Liberty, Lance Robards, and Rafael Benitez came up with the idea of the Rambler." Randy Hindman, the sexy barman at the Merc, said, "Originally, the Rambler was just going to be a newsletter for the Bowling League, who were in their second season." Rafael Benitez, the editor of the Rambler, offered a more somber note. "It was a lot of hard work, but it was certainly worth the effort for this moment." Rafael can recall critics who said that the Rambler would not last three months.

On December 30, 1980, the founders were at the home of Lance Robards. It was he, who, while listening to the plans for a bowling league newsletter, suggested the Rambler be expanded to a "community-wide communication device." "And we have always tried to keep that standard in force," said Modette. Lance, now the Rambler's publisher, makes his home in Long Beach with Billy Moore, a student of helicopter repair at Long Beach City College; and keeps in touch with his staff through the mails. It was Lance who suggested the magazine be called the River City Rambler — because we did ramble on and on and on and on.

Next a staff was recruited: Walter Coburn wrote recipies, Dave Foreman wrote on real estate, Errol Joun, Skip Lamb, Larry Macy started the "Courts Reporter" Column, Maurice did lay-out, Sam Porter, Tommy Puckett, Ken Simpson, Rich Wilkes wrote about sports, and Jim Dunham wrote his tales of "Butch and Nellie." Lance Robards, called Shirley Sparkle in L.A., wrote "Puzzles by Shirley." Modette wrote her often searing advice columns. "It was rough going," Mod said. "We had to learn journalism as we went."

On January 10, 1981, a week after the magazine was named, the Rambler staff met at Rafael Benitez's home to type the first Rambler. Business licenses were quickly arranged. On January 13, 1981, the first Rambler went to print, and the entire staff hit the streets to sell enough ads to pay the printers. Suddenly the printers were producing "proof" copy and the final stages of the issue began. An excited group gathered in the home of the publisher on January 15, 1981, and the first copy of the Rambler arrived. Eagerly the staff collated the first edition by hand and then distributed the first copies. It first appeared in public at the Mercantile Saloon on January 15, 1981 in the early evening. In only a few days the entire community was hunting for copies. One of those first copies is now on file in the Gay Archives in Hollywood, California.

In those early days, the entire community was excited about the appearance of the magazine on the scene. The family council of Our River City Family expressed official intereest and sent lots of copy. The SacPAC's Charter Council appointed a special representative/liaison officer to work closely with the Rambler staff. MCC took out ads. The novice Emperor, Larry VIII, of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire, actually served on the staff for a time until duties resultant from his reign over the River City Crystal Court demanded more and more of his imperial attention. The Valley Knights were also supportive. But it was the River City Bowlers, then the largest bowling league in the Republic, that offered the greatest and most substantial aid, encouragement, and support. The Incredible Edible was our first advertiser. One by one, the bars cautiously took out ads, and local gay businesses followed suit. With a tear in her voice, Modette stated how the earliest advertisers have stuck by the Rambler, always encouraging and supporting.

As the magazine finished its third trimester, Bob Moore joined the staff as a special consultant; and Carl Berry also joined as a graphics expert. R. Guimond, creater of the loveable "Gaylord," together with myself, whose column on history is said to amuse many, both joined the staff also this time. Under Bob Moore's direction, the Rambler plans a glorious future. Shawn Scanlin has recruited Kevin Cohee and Sparks to form the all important advertising department. Modette summed up this new feeling of expansion at the Rambler by saying, "The anniversary issue has sparked a new spirit in the Rambler for the future years."

Duffy's Cleaners

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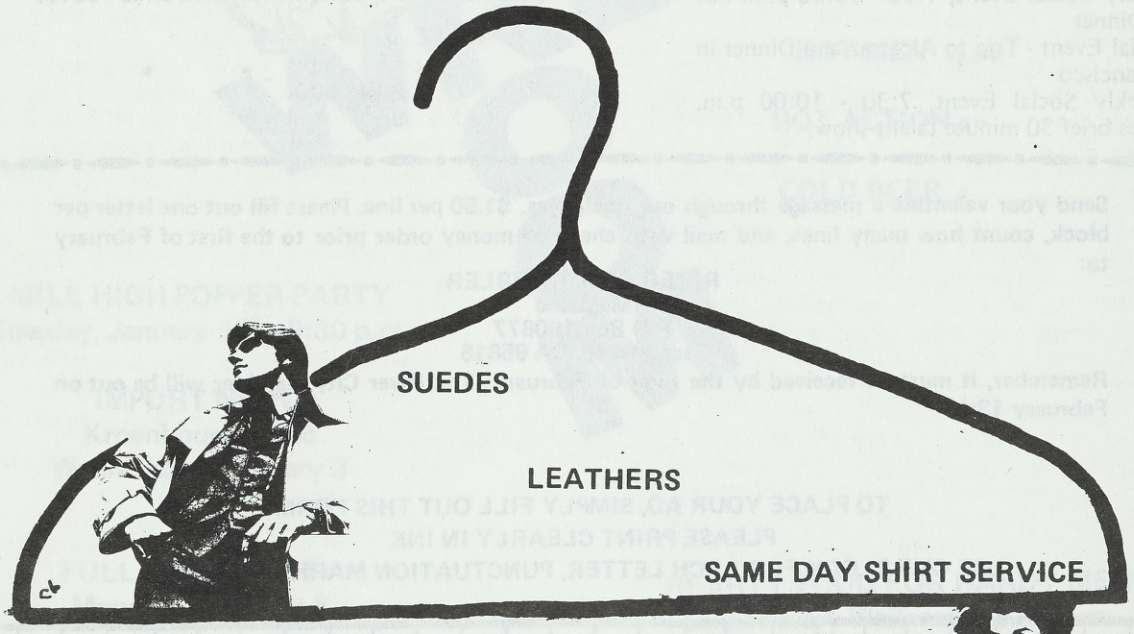

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MAN TWO MAN UPDATE

In January 1982 Man Two Man will become a membership club. One of the activities of the organization is a weekly social event which will be held at the new Man Two Man Clubhouse, located at the Sierra School, 2771—24th Street, Sacramento. This club has continued to grow, which indicates that it is filling a need for the Sacramento Gay Community to bring men together who want to develop meaningful friendships.

Activities planned on a group basis reflect the interests of the members. In previous months special events included an all day trip to Angel Island for a picnic, a trip to Calaveras Big Tree State Park, a brunch in Nevada City, and a two night trip to the Russian River for New Year's Eve.

Man Two Man schedules a weekly social event, 7:30 to 9:30 pm on Wednesdays. The calendar for January and February 1982 is shown below:

JANUARY

20 - Weekly Social Event, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner

23 - Special Event - Trip to Alcatraz and Dinner in San Francisco

27 - Weekly Social Event, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Includes brief 30 minute taleht show.

FEBRUARY

3 - Weekly Social Event, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Includes brief 30 minute discussion on topic "What Do You Really Need from a Partner?"

6 - Special Event: Hot Air Balloon Trip over Napa Valley

10 - Weekly Social Event, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Includes brief 30 minute discussion on topic: "Use of Past Experiences to Enhance New Commitments"

17 - Weekly Social Event, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner

21 - Special Event: Whale Watching Trip. Departing from Bodega Bay

24 - Weekly Social Event, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Includes brief 30 minute Talent Show For more information on Man Two Man, please call Jim Graham (457-7489), Dick (484-7812), or Richard (457-1425), or write: Man Two Man, P.O. Box 161694; Sacramento, California 95816.

* * *

Send your valentine a message through our our pages. $1.50 per line. Please fill out one letter per block, count how many lines, and mail with check or money order prior to the first of February to:

RIVER CITY RAMBLER
Magazine
P O Box 160877
Sacramento, CA 95816

Remember, it must be received by the First of February. The River City Rambler will be out on February 13th.

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USE ONE BLOCK FOR EACH LETTER, PUNCTUATION MARK OR SPACE

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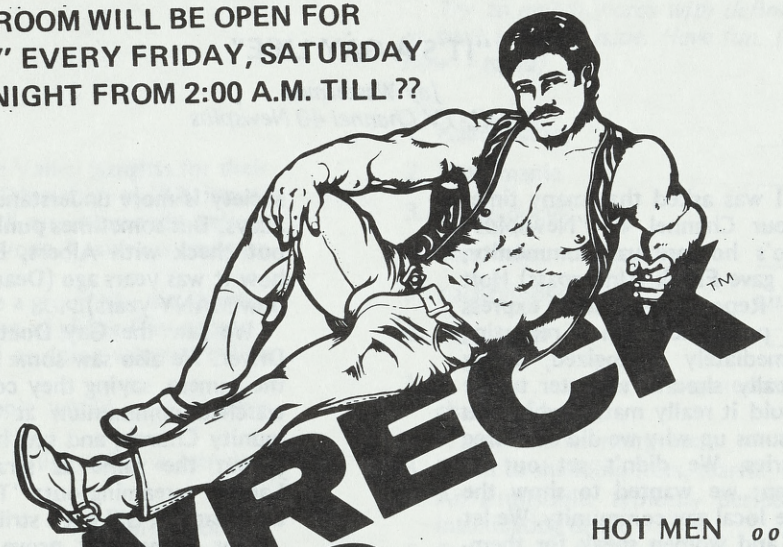

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GUEST EDITOR

(Editor's Note: One of the best articles during the past year is reprinted for your enjoyment. "It's a Gay Life," a presentation by KTXL-TV Channel 40, and narrated by the writer of this article, Jay Wasserman. Jay died in September of 1981, but he will be remembered by our community, not necessarily as an ally, but most important as an honest, objective, unbiased reporter.)

"IT'S A GAY LIFE"

Jay Wasserman
KTXL-TV Channel 40 Newsplus

"Are you gay?" I was asked that many times while videotaping our Channel 40 "Newsplus" look at Sacramento's homosexual community, "It's a Gay Life." I gave Frank (Underpass) Holt my standard reply: "Reporters shouldn't express opinions or sexual preferences when reporting stories." Frank immediately apologized, saying "I'm sorry ... it really shouldn't matter to me what you are." Should it really matter what you are? That probably sums up why we did our three part 20 minute series. We didn't set out to condone or condemn; we wanted to show the present reality of the local gay community. We let dozens of gay men and women speak for themselves – tell their own stories. We raised most of the hard questions and received many sensitive, poignant human answers. We saw there is no definitive answer on why someone is gay or straight. But we may have seen that there is an answer concerning human rights. Is it "Right" to lose a job because of sexual orientation, to be discriminated against? You supply the answer.

I had to do a lot of fast talking for this series; at times I felt like a Hostage Negotiator. Imagine walking into the Underpass, the Wreck Room, or the Steamworks, with a TV camera on a Friday night. Yes, you see our problem, trying to overcome fear, suspicion and apprehension. But it worked; we were able to film everything we wanted. We wanted to hear from "The Average Gay" ... not just get the sanitized party line from "Gay Leaders" who wanted to present a certain image. So we heard the boys breathlessly telling us about being harrassed on the street, while they were luxuriating in the baths. We heard about cruising, promiscuity, saw Walter explain his version of the "Macho" image; and saw the handsome devil I dubbed the "Marlboro" man proclaim his homosexuality on public television for the first time on our "little silver screen."

These phenomena happened repeatedly. Gays appeared on camera saying their mothers didn't know, or "Now's the time to come out." So we see that the closet door is opening, and that society is more understanding and accepting nowadays. But sometimes punks call you "Faggot" ... but check with Albert, Ernie, or Aunt Rose on how it was years ago (Dear Aunt Rose, I won't say how MANY years) ...

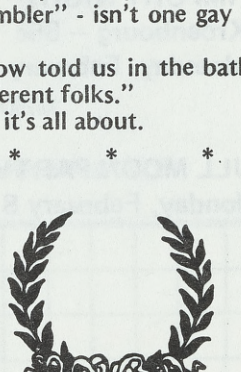
We saw the Gay Doctor, Businessperson, Bus Driver. We also saw some gays with their backs to the camera, saying they couldn't be identified. We watched communion at the Metropolitan Community Church, and saw how 44 Gay teams bowl (about the same as straight teams except for Lance's screaming out: "That's My Honey" every time Captain Bill got a strike!).

Our series may prove to be a watershed in Sacramento (or maybe Channel 40's ratings are still a bit too low for that) for the first time the gay community saw itself on television news for more than a minute and a half quickie, and reacted favorably. The straight community didn't overtly react much at all. Yes, there were some of the expectec calls to the station, saying "You people are going to Hell!" but the majority of the calls were positive. I think we showed that the gay community isn't one solid unified mass. That Lesbians, Drag Queens, Boys, and Newspaper Writers don't always see eye to eye. (I mean, why is there a "Rambler" - isn't one gay local publication enough?)

As one fellow told us in the baths, "different strokes for different folks."

That's what it's all about.

* * *



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR:

I want to commend the Valley Knights for their fine presentation on 12 December of "Christmas Knights '81." It was a well-run show and I believe I can say that most everyone I saw was having a great time.

I'm very proud to have a group like the Knights in our community working at giving Gay people a positive self-image as well as doing valuable PR to the straight community.

I only wish more people would support their efforts.

Again, thanks Valley Knights for a job well done!

Warmly,

Timm Dobbins
Sister Katherine, CSI

* * *

GAYLORD, AGAIN . . .

R. Guimond

I felt real apprehensive about waking up Gaylord. God! He could be cranky in the morning; or the afternoon, which, by the way, it was. "He's got to be up by now," I thought. "It's 1:30." It was also January 1, guaranteeing Gaylord, not to mention everyone else, would be hungover. That will make him crankier than ever! With that in mind, I cautiously approached the door and knocked.

Nothing. I knocked again.

"Yeah? Who is it?" The voice was loud but muffled; it sounded like a voice that had smoked two packs of cigarettes and drunk cheap whiskey all night.

"Open up, it's me." If I had awakend him there would be hell to pay; I knew that. Instead, when the door opened, I was in for the shock of my life.

"Happy New . . . My God! What happened to you?" The moustache was gone, the once thick eyebrows were now a thin line. "You didn't go in drag last night, did you?"

"Well . . . yeah!"

KaWkMR

WORD GAME

Try to match words with definitions: Solution in next month's issue. Have fun. (No dictionaries now – ta, ta)

Answer

1. Kakistocracy _____
2. Dipsomania _____
3. Braggadocio _____
4. Sommelier _____
5. Lachrymose _____
6. Dragoman _____

1. A waiter, as in a club or restaurant, who is in charge of wines.
2. A professional interpreter.
3. Given to shedding tears, tearful, mournful.
4. An irresistible, typically periodic, craving for intoxicating drink.
5. Government by the worst men in the state.
6. Empty boasting, a boasting person.

* * *

"Where were you all night?" I followed him into the living room. "I looked all over but you weren't anywhere last night. I thought I'd surprise you. It was a last minute thing. I had to borrow shoes."

"Why drag?"

"Why not? It was New Year's Eve."

In the years I've known Gaylord, I've learned never to argue with that kind of logic. Any excuse was good enough to go in drag; holidays and functions were almost manditory, as long as it was just "fun" to do it, why not do it?

"Well, I stayed in last night. Let the amateurs have it! I can party any night."

"And you usually do," he said. "Just give you a bottle of gin and a straw and you're happy."

"At least I ain't no drag queen – besides, I thought you were through with drag when you lost a tit at dinner that time. Remember?"

"You'll never let me live that down!"

"At least you'll know to ask for the salt and pepper instead of reaching across the table. Anyway, that's not the reason I'm here. As you know, Gay, January means that the Rambler is one year old this month."

GAYLORD, AGAIN

"The what?"

"You know, the River City Rambler."

"Oh, you mean the one you haven't written for in three months!"

"All right, all right! I'll only admit to writer's block. Besides, I thought Modette was the only one keeping track."

". . . and even when you do write, it's only to make me look like an insipid idiot. And what about that tasteless, gross article about the two flies?"

"Guilty as charged. But now they want us to say something about the first year edition."

"Happy Birthday!"

"Gaylord, you CAN do better than that!"

"I can only do as good as your head, R.G.! Remember, I am not a real person. I'm just a character you created in your mind. I'm as good as you are, or as bad; so YOU say something."

O.K., I will. Gaylord and I want to thank our Readers, Advertisers, and Friends who have supported the Rambler for the last year. Good luck in the new year. How was that, Gaylord?

"You forgot to tell them that we'll be here all this year, too. And Modette, I won't let this sucker get writer's block."

Don't listen to him, Mod, he's as crazy as I am.

* * *

LET'S COMMUNICATE

by: Charles Yunker
Member of the Committee on Aging
Region Nine — Dignity

Growing old with Dignity: A few comments by one of Dignity's senior citizens.

First, I would like to deal with the attitudes of older persons; then with the attitudes of the younger person. I think it is very important for all persons, regardless of age, to maintain a positive attitude toward life. I am definitely not a Christian Scientist; but I have always admired their positive attitudes. One should not become a "Pollyanna" but should deal with negative situations in a positive manner.

As the wrinkles begin to appear on the face, the hairline receding, and the waistline jumping from 22 to 42, there is a tendency for the older person to feel sorry for himself.

Consider the pale green leaves on the maple in spring; followed by the darker green of midsummer; followed by the beautiful fall colors; then falling to the ground to return to earth again. Aging is natural; not something to be feared.

The older person filled with the fear of rejection fails to communicate with the younger person.

I had a personal experience the other day. I was in a coffee shop on Castro Street. I was enjoying my early morning coffee and doughnut and the scenery when a nice clean-cut "American Boy" sat down at my table. After a few moments I asked him if he was new to San Francisco. He replied, "Yes, I've only been here a couple of days. I'm being discharged from the Navy Medical Department." Realizing that we had something in common I told him that I was a Navy Medic for four years during World War II. His interest picked up and we exchanged some comments on the Navy then and forty years later. As our conversation progressed we also had another point in common; we were both born in the same part of Arkansas. I asked him if he had ever heard of the organiztion of Dignity. He said he had not and so I began my little spiel about Dignity and what it had meant to my life. He became quite interested and I gave him our Dignity card and invited him to our Mass the following Sunday. He was pleased, and said he would come.

Even though the years between our birthdays were over half a century, we discovered we had much in common; the Navy, our birthplace, our religion, and last, but not least; we were both gay.

* * *

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VALLEY KNIGHTS' 1982 CHRISTMAS SHOW ALL SET

The Valley Knights Motorcycle Club, Inc. of Sacramento has set the date for its annual Christmas Show in 1982. The event will take place at the Turn Verein Hall, 34th and J Streets, Sacramento, on Saturday, December 11, 1982.

The Valley Knights Christmas Shows have become a tradition for Sacramento and Northern California. The annual event not only draws people from the Sacramento Valley, but also from throughout the state.

The motorcycle club's Christmas Shows have a reputation for attracting persons from all aspects of our community. In 1981 the Valley Knights won a Cable Car Award for its efforts in drawing the entire Sacramento community together in order to make the annual event become a reality. The Valley Knights are extremely proud to be a part of their community, and the club is grateful to everyone who has helped to make the annual Christmas Shows the success they have been.

FAMILY: *(Continued from Page 8)*

This is a valuable outreach and support group for young people both on and off campus. We wish to express our gratitude and congratulations to Chris for his dedication and work with this important service in our community. The meeting place has had to be changed due to the holidays, so be sure to check with Christ (427-3945) for location. The Young Adult Rap meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

The Family Cultural Group sponsored two delightful events recently. An excellent dinner was held at the "City" followed by attendance at the "Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo" which caused even the most dignified patron of the arts to roll with unsophisticated laughter. The other event was a pleasurable evening of Family musical talent with Gene and Cliff at the Piano and Frank Lawler singing with Guitar, which was well attended. The next Family Talent Musical Showcase is scheduled for the month of February. The January Cultural Group organizational meeting will be held on Monday the fourth at Warren's (363-5890).

A location for the volleyball group to play is needed through this winter season. Indoor accommodations are difficult to find during the cold months when leagues and school groups utilize indoor facilities to the maximum. About 100 anxious volleyball participants are eager to get back to a weekly schedule. If you know of a possible place, please contact Doug (927-6524).

* * *

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